

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SAM-01 /066 W

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O 100843Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 636

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2324

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, TH

SUBJ: THE GOVERNMENT FORMATION DANCE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF : BANGKOK 2274

BEGIN SUMMARY: NOTHING SUBSTANTIAL HAS OCCURRED TOWARD
ESTABLISHING A NEW GOVERNMENT. POLITICAL SHADOW DANCING
CONTINUES. FEBRUARY 13, THE NEXT MEETING OF PARLIAMENT,
IS THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT ACT. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MANEUVERING TO FORM THE NEXT THAI GOVERNMENT IS
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SIMILAR TO A THAI SHADOW PLAY WITH ITS SUBTLE MOVEMENTS

AND SUDDEN RUMBLING OF GONGS. THE OTHER PARTIES HAVE WHITTLED AWAY AT THE DEMOCRAT PARTY'S EARLY VICTORY. THE ELECTION OF SOCIAL NATIONALIST PARTY LEADER PRASIT KANCHANAWAT AS SPEAKER OF THE LOWER HOUSE HAS PLACED THE DEMOCRAT PARTY AT A DISTINCT DISADVANTAGE. PRASIT'S SUCCESS MAY SIGNAL AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN MORE LUCRATIVE AND INFLUENTIAL CABINET POSITIONS FOR A COUPLE OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTIES IN A DEMOCRAT-LED COALITION, OR A SHIFT TO A CONSERVATIVE COALITION WITH THAI NATION AT ITS HEAD.

2. KHUKRIT PRAMOT, LEADER OF THE SOCIAL ACTION PARTY (SAP), SUPPORTED PRASIT'S ELECTION. IN TODAY'S HEADLINES, SAP ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD EXPEL ANY MEMBERS WHO FAILED TO VOTE IN SUPPORT OF A DEMOCRAT-SOCIAL AGRARIAN COALITION GOVERNMENT. OBVIOUSLY, SAP IS TRYING TO CARVE A PIVOTAL ROLE FOR ITSELF BETWEEN THE CONSERVATIVES AND CENTRISTS. THE STATEMENT OF THE DAY DENIES YESTERDAY'S PROMISED SUPPORT.

3. THE PROMISES MEANWHILE BECOME SWEETER. CHINESE LANGUAGE "HSING HSIEN" CARRIES A STORY THAT PRAMAN ADIREKSAN WOULD INCLUDE THE DEMOCRATS IN A THAI NATION-DOMINATED COALITION. SEVEN SPLINTER PARTIES WITH 18 VOTES BETWEEN THEMSELVES HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL VOTE FOR THAI NATION. A COUPLE OF THESE PARTIES HAVE HAD TO DEFEND THEMSELVES ON THE FRONT PAGES AGAINST CHARGES OF SELLING THEIR VOTES IN THE SPEAKERSHIP ELECTION.

4. THE PARLIAMENT CONVENES AGAIN ON FEBRUARY 13. THE SPEAKER WILL PLAY THE KEY ROLE IN THE PROCESS OF SELECTING THE PRIME MINISTER. THE FIRST SUBSTANTIAL NEWS ABOUT THE FORMATION OF THE NEXT CABINET HINGES ON THURSDAY'S MEETING. UNTIL THEN THE SHADOWS CONTINUE THEIR CHARADE. KINTNER

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